

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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R 221545Z JUL 76

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1721

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONI 0211

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0413

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY  
19-21, 1976

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: BOTH WEST AND EAST MADE STATEMENTS AT  
THE JULY 21 PLENARY MEETING CONCLUDING THE NINTH ROUND  
OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTIONS NEGOTIATIONS. US REP

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EMPHASIZED THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DECEMBER 16

WESTERN PROPOSALS AND HIGHLIGHTED THE FAILURE OF THE EAST TO EVALUATE THOSE PROPOSALS PROPERLY AND TO PROVIDE A SERIOUS AND POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THEM. SOVIET REP KHLESTOV STRESSED THE EASTERN REQUIREMENT FOR EFFECTIVE FIRST STAGE GUARANTEES THAT NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD MAKE SECOND STAGE REDUCTIONS, AND CALLED UPON THE WEST TO TABLE UPDATED DATA AND TO ABANDON ITS ARTIFICIAL CONCEPT OF DISPARITIES SINCE THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE WAS ESSENTIALLY CHARACTERIZED BY EQUALITY. WESTERN AND EASTERN REPS RESPECTIVELY COVERED THE SAME GENERAL THEMES AT THE JULY 20 INFORMAL SESSION. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE JULY 21 PLENARY MEETING, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN NOTED THE WEST WAS YET TO RESPOND TO THE EAST'S JUNE 10 DATA MOVE WITH UPDATED NATO FIGURES, BUT OTHERWISE TREATED THE ISSUE WITH RESTRAINT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NINTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTIONS NEGOTIATIONS ENDED THIS WEEK. BOTH WEST AND EAST MADE STATEMENTS AT THE FINAL PLENARY MEETING ON JULY 21. US REP EMPHASIZED THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DECEMBER 16 WESTERN PROPOSALS, WHICH OFFER AN EQUITABLE BASIS FOR ENDING THE IMPASSE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. EASTERN CRITICISMS APPEARED TO REFLECT AN INACCURATE EVALUATION OF THE WESTERN POSITION. WHEN ALL RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING GEOGRAPHIC ONES, WERE WEIGHED, US REP SAID IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT THE MILITARY EFFECT OF THE REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS THE WEST PROPOSED TO UNDERTAKE FOR ITSELF WOULD BE AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE MILITARY EFFECT OF THE REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS WHICH IT WAS ASKING THE EAST TO UNDERTAKE. IF THE EAST WAS INTERESTED IN ACHIEVING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT, IT SHOULD MAKE THE SERIOUS AND POSITIVE RESPONSE MERITED BY THE DECEMBER 16 PROPOSALS. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS DID NOT CONSIDER THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL TO BE SUCH A RESPONSE. IN A BRIEF REFERENCE TO DATA, US REP STATED THAT, THOUGH LONG OVERDUE, THE JUNE 10 TABLING OF EASTERN DATA ON WARSAW PACT FORCES IN THE AREA WAS A POSITIVE STEP BUT THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO CLARIFY THE

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LARGE DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FIGURES.

3. IN HIS PRESENTATION, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV CITED THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL AND JUNE 10 DATA MOVE AS EVIDENCE OF EASTERN WILLINGNESS TO TAKE WESTERN POSITIONS INTO PRACTICAL ACCOUNT IN SEEKING OUT NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR PROGRESS. MEANWHILE, ACCEPTANCE OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT DIRECT PARTICIPANTS NOT INCREASE THE

NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THEIR FORCES IN THE AREA DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD DEMONSTRATE BETTER THAN WORDS COULD DO A DESIRE TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE RESULTS. KHLESTOV STRESSED THE EASTERN REQUIREMENT FOR EFFECTIVE FIRST STAGE GUARANTEES THAT NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD TAKE PART IN SECOND STAGE REDUCTIONS. CONCERNING DATA, SOVIET REP TERMED IT VERY STRANGE THAT, AFTER ALL ITS STUBBORN INSISTENCE ON AN EXCHANGE OF FIGURES, THE WEST HAD ALLOWED NEARLY A MONTH AND A HALF GO BY WITHOUT PROVIDING UPDATED NATO DATA COMPARABLE TO THE FIGURES PUT DOWN BY THE EAST. KHLESTOV URGED THE WEST TO TABLE DATA AND TO ABANDON ITS ARTIFICIAL CONCEPT OF DISPARITIES SINCE THE RELATIONSHIP CHARACTERIZED BY EQUALITY. FINALLY, SOVIET REP ASKED WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO FOLLOW THE EASTERN EXAMPLE IN MANIFESTING READINESS TO WORK OUT CONCRETE REDUCTION MEASURES IN CONFORMITY WITH AGREED PRINCIPLES.

4. IN THE JULY 20 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE TALKS, EASTERN REPS CLAIMED THAT THE EAST HAD MOVED IN THE PRESENT ROUND THROUGH TABLING DATA, WHILE THE WESTERN POSITION HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED. THEY STRESSED THE MERITS OF THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL AND REPEATED FAMILIAR CHARGES THAT NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WERE UNWILLING TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEES THAT THEY WOULD REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN A SECOND STAGE, A FACT WHICH, THEY SAID, WAS BLOCKING PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. EASTERN REPS ALSO ASSERTED THAT THE FORCES OF EAST AND WEST IN CENTRAL EUROPE WERE IN BALANCE AND THAT THE WESTERN CONCEPT OF DISPARITIES WAS ARTIFICIALLY CONCEIVED TO JUSTIFY ASYMMETICAL REDUCTIONS. WESTERN REPS POINTED OUT THAT THE FEBRUARY 19 EASTERN PROPOSAL DID NOT REPRESENT MOVEMENT TOWARD MAJOR WESTERN  
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INTERESTS. THY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GEOGRAPHIC FACTOR IN JUDGING REDUCTION PROPOSALS AND ASKED THE EAST TO MAKE A MORE THOROUGH EVALUATION OF THE WEST'S DEC 16 INITIATIVE. WESTERN REPS ALSO CALLED FOR A MORE REALISTIC EASTERN APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. IN HIS STATEMENT AT THE REGULAR END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE JULY 21 PLENARY MEETING, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN, POLISH REP DABROWA, GENERALLY HANDLED THE DATA TOPIC IN A LOW DEY. DABROWA DID NOTE THAT, DESPITE PERSISTENNT, EARLIER WESTERN APPEALS FOR A DATA EXCHANGE, THE WEST WAS YET TO REACT TO THE PROVISION OF EASTERN DATA WITH UP-TO-DATE FIGURES ON NATO FORCES IN THE AREA, BUT DECLINED OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLOIT THIS POINT IN FIELDING FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

FROM REPORTERS. SIMILARLY, IN THE LAST EAST-WEST BILATERAL EXCHANGES OF THE ROUND, EASTERN REPS DID NOT PRESS THE ISSUE BEYOND STATING THEIR HOPE THAT NEW WESTERN FIGURES WOULD BE FORTHCOMING EARLY IN ROUND TEN.

6. THE VIENNA TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27. RESOR

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING REPORTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY 19-21, 1976  
**TAGS:** PARM, NATO  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006